

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 039536

R 261315Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6900

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 18183

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DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, MG, UK

SUBJ: MEETING WITH HM AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA

REF: STATE 266142

SUMMARY: IN NOVEMBER 25 MEETING WITH EMBOFF, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA STATED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT US-MONGOLIAN DISCUSSIONS RE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD STALLED OVER PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE BELIEVED MONGOLS WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO RESUMPTION OF TALKS, BUT STRESSED THAT INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM US SIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL, EMBOFF MET WITH HM AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA MYLEQ PONSONBY FOR TWO HOURS ON NOVEMBER 25. PONSONBY EMPHASIZED THAT MONGOLIAN OFFICIALS HAD NOT DISCUSSED QUESTIMN OF US-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS WITH HIM, BUT ADDED THAT SUBJECT WAS COMMON MATTER OF DIPLOMATIC GOSSIP IN ULAANBAATAP. IN DISCUSSING REASONS FOR MONGOLIAN COOLNESS FOLLOWINE 1973 INITIATIVES IN NEW YORK, PONSONBY CATEGORICALLY DISCOUNTED EITHER SOVIET SECOND THOUGHTS OR ANY "PROBLEM WITH CHINA". PONSONBY SAID HE BELIEVED MONGOLS HAD SUFFICIENT AUTONOMY TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH US SHOULD THEY SM DESIRE BUT OPINED THAT STICKING POINT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN "AGREEMENT REGARDING FACILITATION OF THE
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OPERATIONS OF RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS" (REFTEL

PARA 3).

2. PONSONBY ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ACTUAL US DRAFT PROPOSALS, BUT SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT WE HAD CALLED FOR FREE MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT COUNTRY PLUS GUARANTEED STANDARDS FOR PROVISION OF CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE, CONDITIONS WHICH MONGOLS SIMPLY COULD NOT FULFILL. ON QUESTION OF FREE MOVEMENT, PONSONBY NOTED THAT ALL WESTERN DIPLOMATS (PLUS YUGOSLAVS) WERE THEORETICALLY RESTRICTED TO AREA WITHIN FORTY KILOMETERS OF ULAANBAATAR; ALTHOUGH ENFORCEMENT OF THIS RESTRICTION WAS LAX IF NOT NON-EXISTENT, ONE COULD NOT EXPECT MONGOLS TO AGREE FORMALLY TO EXEMPTION FOR US DIPLOMATS. PONSONBY SAID SITUATION REGARDING MISSION HOUSING WAS SIMILAR: MONGOLS WERE LONG ON GOOD WILL, BUT SHORT ON ADEQUATE BUILDINGS AND/OR CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITIES. PONSONBY SAID THAT CONDITIONS WOULD INITIALLY BE SPARTAN, BUT HE ADDED MONGOLS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AND SYMPATHETIC AS THEIR LIMITED RESOURCES PERMITTED.

3. PONSONBY FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT MONGOLS MAY HAVE BEEN PUT OFF BY PERCEPTIONS OF A "MASSIVE" (BY ULAANBAATAR STANDARDS) AMERICAN PRESENCE AND PERHAPS NEEDED REASSURANCE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY BE FOLLOWED BY OPENING OF PX, BOWLING ALLEYS, COMMISSARIES, ETC.

4. IN SUM, AMBASSADOR PONSONBY EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT MONGOL SILENCE SINCE 1973 OVERTURES COULD BE EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF, "THEY COULD NOT SAY YES BUT DID NOT WANT TO SAY NO, SO THEY SAID NOTHING". HE REMARKED THAT GRANTING OF VISITORS' VISAS TO MOSCOW EMBASSIES COULD (AND PERHAPS SHOULD) BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGNAL THAT MONGOLS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO RENEWED US INITIATIVES.

5. PONSONBY READILY AGREED TO PROVIDE COPY OF UK-MONGOLIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS SIGNED ONLY LAST FRIDAY. HE SAID THAT PROPOSAL FOR AGREEMENT HAD COME FROM MONGOL SIDE AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN MARKED BY ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES. TO BRITISH SURPRISE AND DELIGHT,
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MONGOLS HAD SUGGESTED THAT WORKING TEXT BE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, WITH MONGOL TRANSLATION COMING ONLY AFTER FINAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. UK SIDE USED UK-CZECHOSLOVAK CONSULAR AGREEMENT AS STARTING POINT, BUT MONGOLS WERE METICULOUS IN MAKING MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO SUIT "MONGOLIAN SITUATION". PONSONBY SAID HE FELT MONGOLS HAD DESIRED CONSULAR AGREEMENT TO DEMONSTRATE FURTHER THEIR FULL MEM-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 18183

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BERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, A DESIRE WHICH COULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO APPLY TO QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH US.

6. PONSONBY SAID THAT HIS OPERATIONS IN MONGOLIA HAD NOT REALLY BEEN HAMPERED BY THE ABSENCE OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD OFTEN ACTED UNOFFICIALLY ON BEHALF OF COMMONWEALTH AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CITIZENS IN MONGOLIA AND SAID THAT MONGOLS HAD TAKEN THIS UNOFFICIAL "CONSULAR REPRESENTATION" IN STRIDE, BUT HE ADDED HIS HOPE THAT CONVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL IN FUTURE QUESTIONS OF VISA FACILITATION.

7. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR PONSONBY SPOKE FRANKLY AND EXPRESSED HIS CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE "NUTS AND BOLTS" QUESTIONS OF OPENING A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ULAANBAATAR WITH USG REPRESENTATIVES AT ANY TIME. HE ADMITTED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A US MISSION IN ULAANBATAAR FOR THE COMPANY AND SOLIDARITY IT WOULD PROVIDE, BUT WE FEEL THAT HIS VIEWS ON MONGOL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WERE HONEST AND WITHOUT ULTERIOR MOTIVES. PONSONBY WILL BE IN LONDON FROM DECEMBER 15 UNTIL JANUARY 10, AND WE SHALL PROBABLY SEE HIM AGAIN DURING THAT TIME. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE. END COMMENT.

RICHARDSON

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